



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSE TASK FORCE

MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2015

Mission Memorial Conference Room
Honolulu, Hawaii

MEMBERS PRESENT

Co-Chair Lester Hite, Honolulu Police Department
Co-Chair Catherine Betts, State Commission on the Status of Women
Dennis Dunn, Victim Witness Kokua Services
Pamela Ferguson-Brey, Crime Victim Compensation Commission
Keith Kaneshiro, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney
Judy Kawano, Department of Human Services
Maureen Kiehm, Hawaii State Judiciary
Nanci Kreidman, Hawaii Domestic Violence Action Center
Marci Lopes, Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Mary Anne Magnier, Department of the Attorney General
Pamela Tamashiro, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney
Shawn Tsuha, Department of Public Safety

GUEST PRESENT:

Council Chair Ernest Martin
Councilmember Carol Fukunaga
Mark Matsusaka, Honolulu Police Department
Keith Horikawa, Honolulu Police Department

The meeting of the Domestic Violence Response Task Force began at 1:00 p.m.

1 Opening remarks by City Council

Councilmember Carol Fukunaga welcomed the task force members on behalf of the Council Advisory Committee for issues that impact women, created by Resolution 14-251.

Council Chair Martin welcomed members and thanked them for participating in the task force. He stated that domestic violence is an important issue for the City Council and that the Council relies on experts such as the task force members to assist the Council in moving forward to address the issue.

2 Resolution 15-25, FD1, Establishing the Domestic Violence Response Task Force

Councilmember Fukunaga explained that part of the purpose for establishing the task force was to bring together City, State and non-governmental agencies to work on the issue of domestic violence response, especially as the City Council does not have jurisdiction over non-City agencies. She explained the goals included in Resolution 15-25, FD1, which created the task force to make recommendations:

- for the Honolulu Police Department, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, community agencies, and domestic violence service providers to improve training on, reporting, and monitoring of domestic violence cases
- for the Honolulu Police Department relating to consistency and transparency in reporting domestic violence cases; reducing the number of uninvestigated domestic violence cases; and other measures to improve HPD's handling of domestic violence cases
- with respect to domestic violence including, but not limited to, systems change, data collection, more efficient prosecution, and victim-centered best practices

She then explained that the immediate responsibility of the task force is to produce a report by May 1 that would address initial resource needs of the various represented agencies before budget deadlines for the Fiscal Year 2016. In order for the Office of Council Services to assist in producing a draft of the report by April 24, Councilmember Fukunaga explained that the task force would need to have another meeting and provide the agency with its initial findings by April 17.

3. Introductions of Task Force members

All members present introduced themselves and provided brief background on their work in the area of domestic violence response.

4. Selection of a Chair(s) and discussion of operating procedures

Members discussed the importance of having leadership come from the Honolulu Police Department due to the Department's influence that some of the other agencies do not possess. Major Lester Hite stated that he would be willing to serve, but suggested that it may be more appropriate for HPD to serve in the role of vice-chair with an advocacy organization as chair. Nanci Kreidman suggested that leadership from a state agency and a city agency may be ideal.

Ms. Kreidman made a motion to select Mr. Hite and Ms. Catherine Betts as co-chairs. Mr. Dennis Dunn seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Co-chair Hite explained some of the challenges in the area of domestic violence that the Police Department are currently working on, including defining "aggressor" (primary aggressor vs. dominant aggressor) when deciding to make an arrest, designing training materials to educate officers, and providing support to victims when responding to a call, reviewing policies for external and internal responses.

Mr. Dunn explained that providing support for victims also assists in prosecuting cases and that an ongoing cooperative relationship maintains the trust of the victim/witness. Multiple members agreed that victims who are called as witnesses need to feel safe before, during and after testifying.

Pamela Ferguson-Brey raised the issue of victim safety within the court system. Mr. Shawn Tsuha agreed that in order to achieve adequate levels of protection by the Department of Public Safety, more and better coordinated information is needed by sheriffs when known abusers may be facing court appearances where their victims are present.

The task force members discussed the issue of noncompliance of offenders with orders to turn in firearms.

Members also discussed the gap in programming available for inmates and individuals transitioning out with needs for services. Members explained that while many inmates are required to receive programming, including services to address domestic violence, the capacity of current providers is not adequate for the level of inmates needing services. This results in many inmates being released without receiving programming or services that may reduce incidents of domestic violence in the future.

6. For consideration at next meeting . Top three challenges in doing DV work

Co-chair Betts asked members to bring top three challenges for their organizations for discussion at the next meeting in order to put together a resource priority list. She also asked that members bring any relevant data that their organization has or collects for distribution to the task force.

7. Announcements

Co-chair Hite introduced Lieutenant Mark Matsusaka and Captain Keith Horikawa who are assisting Major Hite in domestic violence policy within HPD.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for April 16, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the Council Committee Room at Honolulu Hale.

9 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

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